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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
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UNCLAS BEIRUT 1547

USIAC

USIA FOR: INA, IOP

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: BEIRUT PRESS ON SOUTH LEBANON

1. WEIZMAN'S DECLARATION OF UNILATERAL CEASEFIRE AND ARRIVAL OF U.N. ADVANCE FORCE (IRANIAN) TODAY ARE BANNER-LINED. MOST PAPERS ALSO REPORTED RELATIVE CALM FOLLOWING CEASEFIRE DECLARATION. CARTER-BEGIN TALKS FRONTPAGED "BUT SOUTH LEBANON DID NOT FIGURE IN FIRST ROUND".

2. OTHER HEADLINES HIGHLIGHTED: (A) STEADFASTNESS CONFERENCE CONCERNED WHETHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TRULY IMMEDIATE; (B) NEWS REPORTS REGARDING ISRAEL'S FIVE-POINT PLAN FOR WITHDRAWING FROM SOUTH; (C) PALESTINIAN RESISTEANCE ISSUED NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON CEASEFIRE. HOWEVER, PALESTINIAN LEADERS SPOKE OF INTENTION TO CONTINUE FIGHTING ISRAEL. SIMILAR STAND ECHOED BY PROGRESSIVE (LEFTIST) PARTIES; (D) LEBANESE PRESIDENT, CABINET AND PARLIAMENT LAUDED U.N. RESOLUTION. SARKIS: "STATE WILL CON-CENTRATE ON IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTION IN FULL. RESOLUTION
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WILL HELP US ESTABLISH SOVEREIGNTY OF STATE." (E) RIGHTIST LEBANESE FRONT REJECTED U.N. RESOLUTION BECAUSE IT DOES NOT DEAL WITH ARMED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN SOUTH. FRONT DEMANDED CIRCULATION OF ITS REJECTION STATEMENT AT U.N.; (F) FORMER PRIME MINISTER SAEB SALAM OPENED FIRE ON CHAMOUN: "HE'S TRYING TO OBSTRUCT PEACE PROCESS."

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3. EDITORIALLY, INDEPENDENT AL-BAYRAK COMMENTED: "ISRAEL STARTED PLANTING SOME OBSTACLES IN PATH OF U.N. RESOLUTION. SPOKESMAN FOR BEGIN DECLARED IN NEW YORK THAT ISRAEL WANTED TO BE SURE THAT U.N. FORCE IN SOUTH LEBANON WOULD BE ABLE TO PREVENT PALESTINIANS FROM RESUMING THEIR ATTACKS IN AREA. THIS PROBLEM COULD BE ONE OF MAIN SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON DURING CARGER-BEGIN TALKS."

4. RAFIK KHOURY OF PRO-SYRIA AL-ANWAR POINTED OUT: "MORE THAN A YEAR AGO LEBANON HAD ASKED AMERICA TO PREVENT ISRAEL FROM INVADING SOUTH. FOR MORE THAN A YEAR THOSE WHO ARE CRYING TODAY (PALESTINIANS) HAVE DONE NOTHING BUT INVITE ISRAEL TO INVADE SOUTH. FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AMERICAN ANSWER HAS NOT CHANGED: 'WE CANNOT PREVENT ISRAELI ARMY FROM CROSSING BORDERS AS LONG AS GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY IS NOT REASSERTED AND AS LONG AS SOUTH IS NOT LEBANESE. BUT WE PLEDGE TO GET ISRAELI ARMY OUT WITHIN REASONABLE TIME.' NO ONE KNOWS NOW HOW LONG REASONABLE PERIOD WOULD LAST."

5. COMMUNIST AN-NADA OPINED THAT "SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 425 WILL NOT STOP ISRAELI AGGRESSION. THIS RAISES DOUBTS ABOUT AMERICAN PLOT WHICH CARTER'S ADMINISTRA-TION SEEKS TO CARRY VUT IN MIDEAST THROUGH RADICAL CHANGES IN AREA."

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6. ENGLISH LANGUK VK SCOLY IKI COMMENTED ON LEBANESE FRONT REJECTION OF U.N. RESOLUTION: "WHILE WE CAN UNDER-STAND THE FEARS WHICH HAVE PROMPTED THIS ACTION ON THE PART OF FRONT, WE APPEAL TO MARONITE LEADERS TO UNDER-STAND THE FEARS WHICH THEY ARE FUELING AMONG THE REST OF THE LEBANESE."
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